

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1051

ANSWERED ON:22.11.2016

Pending Projects

Kambhampati Dr. Hari Babu; Rai Shri Prem Das; Ram Shri Vishnu Dayal

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of projects including infrastructure development projects are pending for clearance at various stages;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, sector and State-wise including Jharkhand;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to complete the process of environmental/forest clearances within a period of 100 days and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the other steps being taken to expedite the process of environmental and forest clearances for such projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) & (b) Pending projects involving environmental clearance and forest clearance are 722 and 146 respectively in number. The details are given at Annexure 1 & 2 respectively.

(c) The Ministry appraises and grants environmental clearance under Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, amended from time to time which prescribes timelines for different stages. Ministry has introduced online application system from 3rd July, 2014 and the average number of days required for environmental clearance for offline cases was approximately 600 days, which has now come down to 192 days.

(d) The major initiatives taken by the Ministry to expedite the process of Environment Clearance inter-alia include use of information technology, increasing of Regional Offices from six to ten, constitution of Regional Empowered Committees (REC), delegation of powers to Regional Office for forest diversion, grant of FC by RECs for linear projects, delegation of more powers to State level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs), standardization of Terms of Reference for all sectors, finalisation of TORs within 30 days, general approval for roads and other strategic infrastructure in area of 100 km from line of actual control, exemption to highway projects in border states from scoping requirement and exempting linear projects in border states from the requirement of public hearing subject to suitable conditions, delegation of powers to District Environment Impact Assessment Authority (DEIAA) headed by District Magistrate/District Collector for mining of minor minerals including sand, constitution of additional Expert Appraisal Committees, regular meetings of the Expert Appraisal Committees, review of pending projects at various levels in the government etc.

The major initiatives taken to streamlining forest clearance process include receipt of applications online, processing applications in a time bound manner, use of Geographical Information System (GIS) based decision support system, advance identification of compact/sizeable blocks of non-forest land or revenue forest land free from encumbrance/ encroachment for compensatory afforestation, depositing of compensatory levies with Adhoc CAMPA through e-portal etc. States/ UTs have been advised to ensure that investigations and surveys carried out in connection with development projects such as transmission lines, hydro-electric projects, seismic surveys, exploration for oil drilling, mining etc. in wildlife sanctuaries, national parks and sample plots demarcated by the Forest Department do not attract the provisions of the FC Act as long as these surveys do not involve any clearing of forest or cutting of trees, and operations are restricted to clearing of bushes and lopping of tree branches for purpose of sighting.
